TARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 3147/3148 Uttar Banga Express (bi-weekly) has been introduced between Sealdah (Calcutta) and New Cooch Bihar (North Bengal) with effect from 22.5.1998.

Rail Line from Udhampur to Jammu and Katra to Quazigund

2123. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Udhampur-Jammu and Katra-Quazigund rail line will be completed;

(b) the total allocated fund for this project for 1998-99 by Government;

(c) The steps being taken to expedite the work for completing the said work of Jammu-Srinagar rail line.

(d) the present position of railway projects in the Kashmir Valley; and

(e) the targets achieved in this regard so far by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Udhampur - Jammu line is targetted for completion in March 2000. Udhampur-Katra and Qazigund-Baramulla will be completed by March 2002 and Qazigund-Katra by March 2007 subject to the requisite funds being made available by the Planning Commission for which the requirement has been advised to them.

(b) Rs. 120 crs. has been provided in the Budget 1998-99 for these projects.

(c) Top priority is being accorded to these projects and adequate resources have been requested for the same, as mentioned in reply to part (a) of the Question.

(d) Final location survey is in progress for the Railway line in Kashmir Valley. It has already been completed for 5 stations. Land for Srinagar Station has already been acquired and for the balance portion, same is under process.

(e) The work is targetted for completion in 2002 and is being progressed to suit the target, subject to resources being made available as explained in reply to part(a) of the Question.

Tackling of crowd in compartments

2124. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities failed to tackle unauthorised crowd entering Railway compartments in Poorva Express to Howrah from New Delhi on 3rd May, 1998; and

(b) the action proposed against recurring such behaviours in trains passing through Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK(: (a) In the captioned news-item published in the Hindustan Times of 5.5.98 that the passengers bound for Howrah via Patna by Poorva Express on 3.5.98 could not get their reserved berths as the same were occupied by the unauthorised passengers. However, no such instance of unauthorised occupants has been reported by any one either in terms of written complaint or verbally to Station authorities at New Delhi railway station.

(b) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the ticket checking staff with the help of Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel and the persons found travelling without/with improper tickets are dealt with as per the provisions of the Railway Act.

Shifting of Anand Vihar Railway Station of East Delhi

2125. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to relocate, shift or abandon the Anand Vihar Railway Station of East Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the expansion plan of above station has since been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details thereof alongwith work progress, budget allocation, time frame, number of platforms proposed, approach roads